

# APPENDIX I

## **Programs Administered by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission**

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The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 for the purpose of achieving cooperation and unity in higher education. The coordination function grew out of a nationwide trend by governors and legislators to promote planned growth, equitable funding, and accountability among the state's colleges and universities.

Since that time the Commission has created funding formulae, funding initiatives based on performance, legislative benchmarks, master plans, and criteria for new academic programs. The Commission believes strongly in working in a collaborative effort with the two public governing boards, and the independent sector to communicate clearly and frequently with various and diverse constituency groups. The Commission currently:

- recommends a budget for a statewide system that is a billion dollar enterprise,
- is engaged in master planning with a central focus on increasing educational attainment, focusing institutional missions and expanding the use of technology, and
- answers questions regarding accountability measures on a daily basis.

The Commission is committed to the principles of equity, excellence, accessibility, and accountability and strives to coordinate all of Tennessee higher education according to those principles.

### **ENABLING LEGISLATION**

1. Study the use of public funds for higher education in Tennessee and analyze programs and needs in the field of higher education. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(a)
2. Undertake such specific duties as may be directed by resolution of the general assembly or as may be requested by the Governor. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(b)
3. Develop a master plan for the future development of public higher education in Tennessee, and make recommendations regarding the implementation of the plan. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(1)

4. Develop policies and formulae or guidelines for the fair and equitable distribution and use of public funds among the state's institutions of higher learning. The formula or guidelines developed by THEC should include provisions for capital outlay and institutional operating expenditures. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(2)(A)
5. Study the need for particular programs, departments, academic divisions, branch operations, extension services, adult education activities, public service activities and work programs of the various institutions of higher learning, with a particular view to their cost and relevance and to make recommendations for the governing boards for the purpose of minimizing duplication and overlapping of functions and services and to foster cooperative programs among the institutions. Make recommendations to governing boards on adjustments to tuition and maintenance fees. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(3)(A),(C)
6. Review and approve or disapprove all proposals for new degrees or degree programs, or for the establishment of new academic departments or divisions within the various institutions. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(4)
7. Conduct a program of public information concerning higher education in Tennessee. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(5)
8. Study and make determination concerning the establishment of new institutions of higher learning as to the desirability or understandability of their establishment, their location, standards, functions, financing and source of governance. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(6)
9. Submit a biennial report to the governor and the general assembly commenting upon major developments, trends, new policies, budgets and financial considerations which would be useful to the governor and the general assembly in planning for the sound and adequate development of the state's program of public higher education. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(7)
10. Review and approve or disapprove all proposals by an existing higher education institution to establish a physical presence at any location other than its main campus, or to expand an existing location, which will be utilized for administrative purposes or to offer courses for which academic credit is offered. Report to the chairs of the fiscal review and education committees by February 15 on the applications filed in the previous year and the status of the application. T.C.A. § 49-7-202 (c)(8)

11. Within thirty (30) days following the submission of the budget by the governor to the general assembly, the Commission shall prepare a report which analyzes the effect which off-site academic locations have on the distribution of formula funding to the main campuses. This report shall be provided to the governor, speakers of the senate and house of representatives, the chairs of the finance, ways and means, education, and fiscal review committees, the office of legislative budget analysis, and the commissioner of finance and administration. T.C.A. § 49-7-202(c)(9)
12. Monitor, update and revise the articulation plan previously implemented by the Commission to ensure the university track program to enhance transferability of courses between the state's colleges and universities is meeting its objectives. The Commission is to report to the Joint Education Oversight Committee and the chairs of the House and Senate Finance, Ways and Means committees by October 1 of each year on the progress on full articulation between all public institutions. T.C.A. §49-7-202(f)
13. Determine and post on the Commission's website information concerning career opportunities for the various fields of study leading to a baccalaureate degree at all institutions of higher education within the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Board of Regents systems. Such information shall include, but not be limited to potential job market in Tennessee, the median income or an income range for the jobs and whether an advanced degree is required to obtain a position within a particular discipline. T.C.A. §49-7-202(g)

### **Additional Legislative Imposed Responsibilities**

#### **Academic Common Market**

The Academic Common Market was created in 1974 as a means of sharing specialized academic programs among Southern Regional Education Board states. Over 1,800 programs at the baccalaureate and higher degree levels at over 151 colleges and universities currently participate in the Market. The Academic Common Market is administered by the Southern Regional Education Board with the cooperation of 14 of the 15 SREB states. The Market allows residents of participating states to have a broader range of educational opportunities at in-state tuition rates. The Market has a three-fold purpose: (1) eliminating unnecessary duplication among states, in that it is impractical for any institution or single state to develop or maintain degree programs in every field of knowledge; (2) support existing degree programs that have the capacity to serve additional students; and (3) provide access and encourage movement across state lines for programs not available in a student's home state. TCA §49-7-301

### **Community Service Awards**

The Community Service Awards were created in 1991 to reward faculty and students in higher education who provide a public service to the community. Those honored by an award have distinguished themselves in the many dimensions of community service and leadership roles in community organizations. They serve as ambassadors for community service among public and independent institutions of higher education. TCA §§ 49-7-208 and -209

### **Consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

The Commission is authorized to provide assistance to a consortium of Tennessee historically black colleges and universities in their efforts to impact the economic development of the state by strategically partnering with the State and private industry. The Commission is to facilitate strategy development and coordinate the implementation of the partnership between the Consortium and other parties. The program has not yet been funded. T.C.A. §§49-7-2901 et seq.

### **Contract Education Program**

The Contract Education Program provides Tennessee residents with the opportunity to pursue academic programs where access is limited due to the size and/or location of the programs or where the programs are not offered in a public college or university. Providing access to these special needs areas in this manner is more economical than initiating or expanding comparable programs in public institutions. In addition to reserving positions for Tennessee residents in these special needs areas, the contract education program also provides some form of financial assistance to the students. Additionally, in an effort to meet a shortage of physicians in family medicine and preventive medicine, the contract education program partially funds medical residency positions at Meharry Medical College, regardless of their state of residence. Some additional programs currently being contracted are Mortuary Science, Sign Language Interpretation, Optometry and graduate level nursing programs. T.C.A. §§49-7-203(b), 49-7-301 et seq., 47-7-401, -402 and -404

### **Education Lottery Scholarship Program**

The Commission has been charged with the responsibility to collect and analyze data related to students receiving lottery scholarships to provide the General Assembly with information related to student success and scholarship retention. The Commission is to make an annual report to the General Assembly on its findings by the second Tuesday in January. T.C.A. §49-4-903

### **Geier Consent Decree**

In September 2006, the federal court approved the dismissal of the 1968 Geier Desegregation lawsuit. The majority of the recurring funding for Access and Diversity has been transferred to the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee

Board of Regents systems. The remaining funds allocated to THEC will be used to make the final payments to attorneys and to the court monitor.

### **Institute of Public Health (TNIPH)**

The Commission has been authorized to develop an institute of public health. This institute in consultation with the Department of Health, the University of Tennessee system, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and private colleges and universities in Tennessee will promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. The mission of the institute is to improve the health of all Tennesseans through providing a science-based process for informed health policy development.

### **Legislative Benchmarks – Challenge 2010**

The legislative benchmarks were created in 1984 as an accountability measure to be developed and reported by the Commission. The benchmarks were revised in 1989 to mirror goals established by the Southern Regional Education Board for its 15 member states and became known as Challenge 2000. With the passing of the year 2000, the Commission established Challenge 2010 The Annual Progress Report, which marks progress on the 2005-2010 Master Plan. Preparation of the annual benchmark report requires access to statewide data from both public and independent institutions. The Commission developed and maintains the statewide data to support this accountability measure. Through this and other assessment activities (e.g. performance funding), Tennessee continues to lead the way in developing usable accountability measures of higher education outcomes. The Commission is currently updating these goals. TCA § 49-5-5024

### **Minority Teacher Education Program**

A competitive matching grant program was established in 1989 to support pilot projects designed to expand the recruitment pool of minorities preparing to be teachers. Developed jointly by higher education institutions and local school districts, these projects target groups including teacher aides, substitute teachers, high school students, community college students, non-degreed community residents, military personnel, and college graduates presently not teaching who are interested in entering the teaching profession. Project initiatives must include matching state-appropriated funds with local funds on a one-to-one basis and the establishment of an evaluation model. This program is authorized through funding in the appropriations bill and the two year awards are contingent on such funding.

### **Postsecondary Education Authorization Program**

The Postsecondary Education Authorization Act of 1974 was established to protect the education and welfare of the citizens of the State of Tennessee. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission has been designated as the agency to authorize the operation of institutions in Tennessee, which are included under this Act. The Commission establishes minimum standards concerning quality

of education, ethical and business practices, health, safety, fiscal responsibility, and protects the Tennessee consumer against fraudulent institutions and practices. It also authorizes the granting of degrees, diplomas, or other educational credentials by post-secondary institutions; prohibits the granting of false educational credentials; regulates the use of terminology in naming institutions; and prohibits misleading literature, advertising, solicitation, or representation by institutions. TCA § 49-7-2001 et seq.

### **Tennessee Institutes for Pre-professionals (TIP)**

The Tennessee Institutes for Pre-professionals was created in 1985 as a result of the Stipulation of Settlement in the statewide *Geier* desegregation case. The purpose of the program is to increase the representation of African-American persons in the public health professional and law schools. Each spring 80 African-American students who are Tennessee residents enrolled in Tennessee public institutions are selected by committees representing the faculties of all state supported professional schools for pre-enrollment in the state's schools of law, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and medicine. With the funds from the TIP program, the professional schools are able to counsel these students, assist in planning their pre-professional curricula, provide summer programs at the end of their freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years, and agree to their admission as first year professional students, if they successfully complete their undergraduate work and meet minimum admissions standards. This is authorized through funding in the appropriations bill.

### **Tuition Discount and Fee Waiver Programs**

The dependent children age 24 years and under of all full-time state employees (who have been employed for more than six months) or retired state employees may receive a 25 percent maintenance fee discount on undergraduate tuition at any public college or university. The discount is also available for the child of a former State employee who died while employed by the State, whether or not the death was job-related or in the line of duty. The same 25 percent discount also applies for the dependent children of current full-time public school teachers in Tennessee, as well as the dependent children of former public school teachers who die while their child is receiving the benefit as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

Full-time state employees and members of the General Assembly are allowed to take one course per term at any public college, university, technology center or the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute at no charge. When these discounts were authorized by the General Assembly, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission was charged with formulating the rules and regulations to implement the waiver. TCA § §8-50-114, 8-50-115, 49-7-119

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)**

In April 2005, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission applied for a federal Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs grant. In September 2005, THEC was awarded a \$3.5 million federal discretionary grant by the U.S. Department of Education, known as Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). GEAR UP provides resources to assist state efforts to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Partnering together in the development and implementation of GEAR UP Tennessee (GEAR UP TN) are the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Department of Education, Tennessee Board of Regents, University of Tennessee System, along with other consultants and local/regional partnerships.

GEAR UP TN will serve an estimated 6,000 students per year in 9 counties and 47 schools. The project is designed to promote student achievement, enhance awareness and expand access to post-secondary education statewide, especially in those areas of the state that are traditionally underserved. During the grant period from 2005 to 2011, GEAR UP TN will provide participating counties with resources to serve the high school Class of 2011 from their 8th grade year through the completion of high school. Concurrently, GEAR UP funds will be used to promote college access initiatives and incentives to 11th and 12th grade students in the partnering counties. Any student graduating from a participating high school with a regular or special education diploma will be eligible for a GEAR UP TN Bridge Award of no less than \$750 to be utilized at any public or private institution in Tennessee participating in the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship Program.

Through the creation of early intervention programs, enhanced academic assessments, and a broad-based outreach campaign articulating the importance of postsecondary access, GEAR UP TN aims to achieve the following goals:

- Increase educational expectations of GEAR UP students and their families through an expanded knowledge of postsecondary access and financial aid opportunities.
- Enhance the academic preparation of GEAR UP students to improve high school graduation rates and postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion.
- Provide effective professional development for classroom teachers and school staff to ensure increased academic rigor and postsecondary preparation.
- Encourage family and community involvement through GEAR UP to foster an environment that supports life-long learning.



GEAR UP TN will directly serve students in Campbell, Cocke, Grundy, Hardeman, Johnson, Lake, Meigs, Union and Wayne counties.

### **Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program**

This federal program operates as Title II Part A of No Child Left Behind. It was established to provide grants to colleges and universities in order to provide professional development for K-12 teachers, paraprofessionals and principals. The chosen areas of study are: mathematics, science, social studies, English/language arts, foreign languages and related arts. One of the missions of the Commission is to study the need for particular programs, departments, academic divisions, branch operations, extension services, adult education activities, public service activities and work programs of the various institutions of higher learning. One of the goals established was to develop a collaborative planning partnership between higher education and K-12 education for teacher preparation and continuing professional development. This program helps stimulate the linkages between higher education faculty and K-12 faculty for the preparation of teachers to use curriculum and instructional processes which promote active learning, problem solving, interdisciplinary learning, and content application.

### **Veterans Education Program**

In 1983 the Tennessee Higher Education Commission was assigned to be the State Approving Agency for determining training programs in the state in which eligible veterans may enroll and receive veteran's education benefits, more commonly known as the GI Bill. The Commission works in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, following both state and federal legislation and regulations in administering the approval program. Many of the institutions and programs that are reviewed for authorization are also reviewed by Commission staff members for veteran's education approval purposes.

### **Workforce Investment Act**

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) is a federal program that provides training that will assist the unemployed and underemployed to enter or re-enter the workforce in higher wage jobs. THEC has been designated by the Governor to implement and maintain the Eligible Provider's List for the State of Tennessee. The WIA program involves monitoring and keeping files on an excess of 2,700 programs offered by approximately 150 providers on the State's Eligible Providers List.